

Jonathan O. Peña, Esq.
CA Bar ID No.: 278044
Peña & Bromberg, PLC
3467 W. Shaw Ave., Ste 100
Fresno, CA 93711
Telephone: 559-439-9700
Facsimile: 559-439-9723
Email: info@jonathanpena.com
Attorney for Plaintiff, Sergio Ramirez-Martinez

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
FRESNO DIVISION**

Sergio Ramirez-Martinez,

Plaintiff,

v.

Frank J. Bisignano¹,
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL
SECURITY,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:24-cv-00911-KES-BAM

**STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD
AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY
FEES AND EXPENSES PURSUANT
TO THE EQUAL ACCESS TO
JUSTICE ACT; ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of NINE THOUSAND FIVE-HUNDRED AND 00/100 (\$9,500.00) under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and costs in the amount of ZERO dollars (\$0.00) under 28 U.S.C. §1920.

¹ Frank J. Bisignano became the Commissioner of Social Security on May 7, 2025. Pursuant to Rule 25(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Frank J. Bisignano should be substituted for Leland Dudek as the defendant in this suit. No further action need be taken to continue this suit by reason of the last sentence of section 205(g) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

1 This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of
2 Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C.
3 §§ 1920, 2412(d).

4 Plaintiff was the prevailing party in this matter and Plaintiff is an individual
5 whose net worth does not exceed \$2,000,000 at the time the civil action was filed.

6 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will
7 consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to Plaintiff's attorney.
8 Under *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S. Ct. 2521, 2528-29 (2010), EAJA fees awarded by this
9 Court belong to the Plaintiff and are subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program
10 (31 U.S.C. § 3716(c)(3)(B) (2006)). Any EAJA fees should therefore be awarded to
11 Plaintiff and not to Plaintiff's attorney. If, after receiving the Court's EAJA fee order,
12 the Commissioner (1) determines that Plaintiff has assigned his right to EAJA fees to
13 his attorney; (2) determines that Plaintiff does not owe a debt that is subject to offset
14 under the Treasury Offset Program, and (3) agrees to waive the requirements of the
15 Anti-Assignment Act, then the EAJA fees will be made payable to Plaintiff's attorney,
16 JONATHAN O. PEÑA-MANCINAS at the firm, PEÑA & BROMBERG, PC.
17 However, if there is a debt owed under the Treasury Offset Program, the Commissioner
18 cannot agree to waive the requirements of the Anti-Assignment Act, and the remaining
19 EAJA fees after offset will be paid by a check or electronic fund transfer (EFT) made
20 out to Plaintiff, but delivered to Plaintiff's attorney, JONATHAN O. PEÑA-
21 MANCINAS at the firm, PEÑA & BROMBERG, PC.
22

23 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for
24 EAJA attorney fees, and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of
25 Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute
26 a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or Counsel
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1 including Counsel's firm may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with
2 this action.

3 The parties further agree that the EAJA award is without prejudice to the right of
4 Plaintiff's attorney to seek attorney fees pursuant to Social Security Act § 206(b), 42
5 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the offset provisions of the EAJA. *See* 28 U.S.C. §
6 2412(c)(1) (2006).

7 Respectfully submitted,

8
9 Dated: November 6, 2025

/s/ Jonathan O. Peña

10 JONATHAN O. PEÑA
11 Attorney for Plaintiff

12 Dated: November 6, 2025

13 ERIC GRANT
14 United States Attorney
15 MATHEW W. PILE
16 Head of Program Litigation 1
Law & Policy
Social Security Administration

17 By: * Jeffrey E. Staples

18 Jeffrey E. Staples
19 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney
20 Attorneys for Defendant
21 (*Permission to use electronic signature
22 obtained via email on November 6, 2025).
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ORDER

Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses (the "Stipulation"),

IT IS ORDERED that fees and expenses in the amount of NINE THOUSAND FIVE-HUNDRED AND 00/100 (\$9,500.00) as authorized by the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: November 6, 2025



UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE